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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 54 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor the town of Dickson, Tennessee on its
centennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected officials of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy communities that have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of this state and its local economies; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Dickson community are most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, chartered in 1873, Mr. C. Berringer of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, became the first owner of the town when he purchased most of the land that comprises the 5th district in 1857; and

WHEREAS, Herman Bokum in his book, *The Tennessee Handbook and Immigrants Guide*, described Dickson as, "...a colony of framers and mechanics... there is oil shipped from this county. The soil is both free and limestone. The lumber is abundant and good..."; and

WHEREAS, the thriving town grew at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, when the eastern branch of the Nashville and Northwestern Rail Line was completed from Nashville to Kingston Springs; and

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WHEREAS, after the Union Army took control of Fort Donelson in 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the completion of the line to Johnsonville on the Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, near the end of the war in 1864, Dickson's first store and hotel, both located on North Main Street, are believed to have been constructed by W.H. Crutcher; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the Civil War and the advent of the railroad, the Dickson community grew rapidly over the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, like many Tennessee towns, Dickson first developed as a railroad town with much of the commercial business being in agricultural and timber-related industries; and

WHEREAS, today, the railroad is still an integral part of Dickson's continuous history; the local depot serves as a crucial monitoring point along the line where ten to twelve trains run between Memphis and Nashville each day; and

WHEREAS, tool handles, hardwood flooring, white oak barrels, and spokes for buggy wheels were just some of the locally manufactured products sold in the retail market; and

WHEREAS, Dickson and the surrounding area is the site of many sawmills, with the Dickson Planing Mill, operated by the Cowan brothers, being the largest; and

WHEREAS, at the turn of the century, several major businesses located in Dickson, including the U.S. Tobacco Company, the Henry I. Siegel (HIS) Company, the American Cigar factory, and the Red Cap Garment Company, all of which are still operating in the town today; and

WHEREAS, a local prominent businessman named J.T. Halbrook constructed the town's historical Halbrook Hotel across from the train depot in 1913; the hotel graciously served rail passengers, railway personnel, farmers, merchants, and "drummers" (traveling salesmen); and

WHEREAS, in 1917, a widow from Scottsville, Kentucky named Belle S. Goad moved to Dickson, leased the hotel from Mr. Halbrook, and managed it with the help of her sister, Maybelle; and

WHEREAS, two years later, Maybelle married Robert S. Clement, who later became a prominent attorney in Dickson; their son, Frank G. Clement, was born in the hotel and later served as Governor of Tennessee for three terms; and

WHEREAS, the Halbrook Hotel still stands today as a reminder of its role in the commercial history and development of Dickson and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, another point of interest in Dickson is the First National Bank of Dickson; it was constructed in 1920 in the narrow two-story Neo-Classical style and is also named on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the community of Dickson is truly one of the great communities and has been a catalyst for positive change in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those communities and their citizenry who are commemorating significant milestones in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of the greater Dickson community upon the celebration of their centennial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.